

The background is a solid dark green color. Overlaid on this are numerous thin, curved lines in various shades of green, from light to dark, and one prominent line in a reddish-brown color. These lines flow from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

giving money

to support the work
of the church

“Financial giving is a great indicator of the spiritual health of a church as a whole, and of each person in the church individually. It is a spiritual issue which is gospel driven.”

If you are part of the church family, please...

- give regularly
- review your giving annually

Generous giving in the past has enabled us to resource God’s work both within the parish and in the wider church (the Diocese and national church, and across the world). This financial support is entirely dependent upon the giving of the church family.

Financial giving is a great indicator of the spiritual health of a church and of each person in the church individually. It is a spiritual issue which is gospel driven.

Please take some time, at least once a year, to think through your giving. Part of this booklet teaches a little of what the Bible says about our attitude and our approach to money and giving. Please use it to help you prayerfully consider what you might give.

Bible teaching on giving

What the Bible says about giving

The Bible has a great deal to say about money, our attitude to it and what we do with it.

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NRSV)

Why give?

In response to God’s grace

God has shown his great love for sinful and unworthy people like us in the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Having received such undeserved generosity we should be motivated to give generously in response. We are to be like God - not reluctant givers, but wanting to give generously from all that he has given us.

In recognition of God’s gifts

God wants us to be generous – not just with our money but with our time, energy, skills, homes and possessions. If we have received God’s abundant grace then we all have something to give. Sometimes these other things are harder to give than money.

In reaction to needs and priorities

The apostle Paul encourages the Corinthian Christians to give generously to a collection for other Christians in great poverty. God’s priorities are that his people should come first in our giving: those who teach the word of God (1 Tim 5:17), those in need in our church (James 1:27, 1 Tim 5:8) and those in need in other churches (2 Cor 8-9). The needs are therefore both the local work of the parish and further afield in the wider church.

How to give?

Abundantly

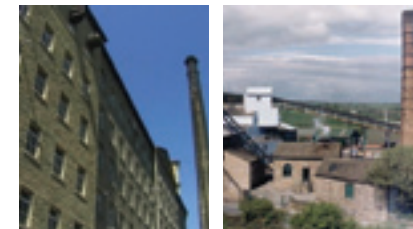
The apostle Paul stresses the abundant nature of God’s giving towards us so that we may give abundantly in response. *God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.* The Old Testament commanded a tithe (10% of income). The New Testament is far more radical: we are to be generous givers of all we have. Some will give far more than 10% of their income, others less.

Thoughtfully

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind. We need to think carefully about what we have been given, what our responsibilities are and how we can give money in the most effective way.

Joyfully

God loves a cheerful giver. It’s easy to give for the wrong reasons - to relieve our guilt, to avoid other avenues of Christian service, to be seen to be generous by others. The apostle Paul tells us that God loves a joyful and big-hearted response to all that he has lavished on us.



How much should I give?

The amount we give to our local church is a decision to be made honestly between us and God. There is clearly no right answer and many church family members will be giving both to the church and to other organisations. However, three practical suggestions might be useful as you prayerfully consider:

- Even if you are on a restricted income, perhaps as a pensioner or student, it is still good to develop a habit of giving - perhaps a Standing Order of a small amount each month. Standing Orders provide discipline and help us to prioritise giving, even when our budget is limited.

- Those with higher earnings might like to give at a level to fund specific projects or church resources.
- The Old Testament suggested that the Tithe (10%) was a place to start – yes, start – and Jesus was often even more challenging. The Church of England suggests that if you take that as a basis then half of your total giving might be through your church. The good thing about this figure is that it is both a proportion of income most people have found they can manage to give (many give more) and a way to ensure you give adequately as your income increases (if your income is £100 a week you would give £5, or more, to the church, if it is £1000 you would give £50).

Using resources wisely

How we spend money on God's work

Local

The work of the church family in and around the parish is the bedrock of our activities. It includes the many Sunday and weekday events for children, youth, students, families and older people.

Wider church

Further afield, the wider church family includes our mission links across the world. This includes those in training for future ministry. The wider church activities also include financial support for clergy and lay workers elsewhere in Wakefield Diocese. Being part of such a family includes responsibilities for sharing resources with parts of that family who are not as well off as we are.

Please see the insert for details of the amounts of money we need to support our local and wider church activities. Our aim is for regular giving from the church family to cover the costs of these activities. Gift Days may be held exceptionally, when there is a particular need to fund a major project.



FAQs

Giving made simple — Frequently Asked Questions

How can I give?

- By Standing Order each month, quarter or year
- Using regular giving envelopes
- Payroll Giving
- Single donations by cash, cheque or charity voucher
- Putting money in the church collections
- Gifts of shares and other listed investments
- Including the church in your will

How would you like me to give?

Standing Orders transfer money from your bank to the church regularly and automatically. This provides the church with regular, predictable income, which helps in two ways: it enables us to budget effectively and it is simpler and cheaper than cash, cheques or envelopes to administer.

So, if you can, please give by Standing Order. Complete the enclosed Standing Order form with whatever amount and whatever frequency you choose. You can cancel by calling your bank at any time. However, if a Standing Order isn't for you, please use any of the other methods above. We are grateful for each and every £ given.

How can I change my level of Standing Order?

Simply fill in a new Standing Order Form and indicate in the space provided that you want to cancel your existing Standing Order. Please don't instruct your bank without letting the church know – Standing Order forms represent an important link in the evidence required for Gift Aid reclaims.

How can the church get the most benefit from my giving?

If you pay UK tax, please complete a Gift Aid Declaration so the church can reclaim the basic rate tax you have paid: around 25p for every £1 you give.

A Gift Aid Declaration held by the church will apply to all your future gifts until you notify us otherwise. So, if your tax circumstances change, you will need to let the church know. Please read the Conditions for Gift Aid on page 10 for full details.

Please note that giving information is always treated in the strictest confidence.

How do I make a single donation?

Please make your cheque or charity voucher payable to the PCC and put it in a giving envelope and return it to the Church.

If you are giving cash or a cheque, you pay UK tax and the church does not hold an existing Gift Aid Declaration from you, please complete the full details on the front of the giving envelope. If you know the church holds an existing Gift Aid Declaration, please make a note of this on the front of the envelope, but otherwise you may leave the envelope anonymous.

How is my giving allocated between local and wider church activities?

Each year the PCC (the elected church council) agrees a budget for the following calendar year. As part of this budgeting process, the PCC agrees how much should be spent on all different aspects of the church's activities.

Except on a very few days (when it is advertised that a collection will be reserved for a specific purpose), all giving is channelled into the church's General Fund. It is then used in accordance with the PCC's budget for the year.

May I specify how I would like my gifts to be used?

Yes. However, such requests can prevent the PCC from using money in accordance with its needs so, wherever possible, please leave the allocation of funds to the elected church council.

Who should I contact?

Gifts, Standing Order Forms, Gift Aid Declarations and envelope requests should be sent to the treasurer or parish giving officer.

Further information on giving can also be found on the Wakefield Diocesan website at www.wakefield.anglican.org/giving.

The Small Print

Conditions for Gift Aid

Making donations

- There is no minimum amount or minimum term for Gift Aid.
- Donations may be made by Standing Order, cheque, direct bank transfer or cash.
- To qualify for Gift Aid, you must pay an amount of UK Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax the church reclaims on your donations.

Changes in your situation

- You are responsible for informing the Gift Aid Officer if your tax situation changes for any given tax year in which you have authorised the church to make Gift Aid claims. Please do get in contact even if this relates to years in the past for which you overlooked or were unaware of this requirement – the church can adjust previous claims if necessary.
- You can cancel your declaration at any time by notifying the church treasurer.

Reclaiming tax

- The church will reclaim the basic rate tax you have paid on your donations when we have received your signed Gift Aid Declaration.
- If you pay tax at a higher rate, you can claim further tax relief when submitting your annual tax return.

Data protection

In completing and submitting the Gift Aid Declaration and/or Standing Order form, you agree that the parish may collect, store and use any personal information you may be providing for the purposes of administering your giving and complying with any requests for information from HMRC and for the purpose of providing you with information about our current and future programme of activities.



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